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LETTER DATED 15 SEPTEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement on the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India.

I would be grateful if you would provide for the distribution of this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. H. ANSARI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement

India welcomes the mutual recognition by the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on Palestinian self-rule. These are notable steps towards ensuring for peace and stability in west Asia, which has been troubled by strife and discord for so many generations. The Government of India extends felicitations to Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and his negotiators, for their courage in taking this first but essential step. India also notes the pragmatism and foresight of the Israeli leadership, especially Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres, in arriving at the present agreement. India, with its historic ties of friendship and sociocultural links with the peoples of the region, will continue to extend its support to further efforts that will be undertaken towards peace in west Asia, and will lend its good offices whenever required towards confidence-building measures in the area. India expects that these historic steps forward would lead to further positive developments aimed at achieving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The agreements between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan and Lebanon, which are under discussion, when achieved, will introduce an era of regional amity, peace and prosperity free from tension and conflict. India hopes for this prospect in the larger interests of world peace and stability.